



SOUTHEAST NEWS

March - April 2015

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-1611

Hello Families!

It seems surprising to me that we have entered the month of March already. With the mounds of snow, and its impact on the school delays and cancellations, it feels as if February was a blur. We are hopeful that the coming weeks will actually bring our first Spring flowers, but they may be hidden by a few feet of snow. I know I'll be among the first cheering on the crocuses as a sign of the season change. But, weather can't stop us! We have forged on and provided, we hope, some great moments for our students.



Southeast School enjoyed a splendid celebration of Dr. Suess's birthday known as Read Across America Day, on Monday, March 2. With the great array of silly, creative, scary and fun hats, the children, and staff, arrived in style and ready to celebrate the special day focused on reading. Our Interim Superintendent, Dr. Kisiel was able to join the Kindergarteners for the best rendition of Mr. Brown Can Moo! Can You? that I've ever heard. We also had a schoolwide DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) and had various Cats in the Hats walking the school throughout the day. Please check the Principal's Blog (a link can be found on the Southeast homepage on the bottom left – click on News from the Principal) to see some great photos of first and second graders posed with a Cat in the Hat.

Also to celebrate reading and writing, we hosted Author Sarah Albee in February. She presented her background and inspiration which helped her write over 100 books. Mrs. Albee also read her stories to our younger students, and met with some of our older students who have expressed interest in becoming writers one day. She was truly a delightful presenter who shared her love of literature and writing. Further, she was so impressed with our school, she posted some pictures of the day on her blog. It was a fabulous day and we are truly thankful to you and our PTO for funding this whole school event. Every fundraiser you do makes a difference!

We have had some exciting recent events sponsored through the PTO, like the Applebee's breakfast which was a huge success, too. We have more to come, so please mark your calendars. I hope to see you at the Tri-School Basketball Event on March 20 at EO Smith. Our Third/Fourth Grade Southeast Drum Line will be a featured act. Please come out to support Southeast School and our Mansfield School District.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lauren Rodriguez

Calendar of Events

March

- Mar. 2..... Funny Hat Day- Read Across America
- Mar. 8..... Daylight Savings Time Starts
- Mar. 10..... 6:30 PM- PTO Meeting
- Mar. 16..... **NO SCHOOL** - Staff Professional Development
- Mar. 17..... St. Patrick's Day
- Mar. 19..... 7:30 PM- Board of Ed. Meeting at MMS
- Mar. 20..... First Day of Spring
6:30 PM- Tri-School Basketball Game
- Mar. 25..... 6:30 PM- Invention Convention & Science Fair



April

- Apr. 3..... **NO SCHOOL**- Good Friday
- Apr. 4..... Passover Begins
- Apr. 5..... Easter Sunday
- Apr. 13-17..... **NO SCHOOL**- April Vacation
- Apr. 15..... Federal Income Tax Day
- Apr. 22..... Administrative Professionals Day
- April 23..... 6:30-8:00 PM- Kindergarten Parent Orientation
- Apr. 24..... Arbor Day



KINDERGARTEN 2015-2016

We are asking your help in identifying all children who will be eligible to attend kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. We are in the process of gathering all names and addresses in order to send out invitations to the activities necessary to register these children.

If you have a child or know of a child who will be 5 years old on or before January 2, 2016, please contact the school office at 423-1611.

(Children who currently attend our Preschool Program will automatically be enrolled in kindergarten for next year.)



Please feel free to call our office with any questions you may have.

PRESCHOOL SCREENING

We are in the process of gathering names and addresses of children who will be eligible for Preschool Screening this spring.

If you have a child or know of a child born between 1/2/10 and 8/28/11, please contact our school office at 423-1611 for an application and information about our Preschool Screening. Only children who go through the screening process will be considered for the Preschool Program.

Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy

Parent-Staff Basketball Tournament

Friday, March 20th

6:30-8:00 PM

E.O. Smith High School

Come and show your school spirit at the 2nd annual Tri-School Basketball Tournament. Join us as we cheer on parents and staff of Mansfield's Elementary Schools as they play in an exciting game of basketball for the coveted GOLDEN SHOE! T-shirts will be launched, various entertainment will be provided, and school spirit will be demonstrated during this community building event!



There will be a suggested donation of \$10 per family. Light snacks and drinks will be sold. Proceeds will go to fund each school's programs.

March 20th is School Spirit Day

Show your school spirit by wearing our school colors, or find another creative way to show your support for our Southeast Teachers and Parents playing in the Tri-School Basketball Tournament.



Attention Southeast Scientists and Inventors!



The Annual Southeast School Science Fair and Invention Convention is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2015 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. All Southeast students are invited to participate in this exciting event. Students may enter either the Science Fair or the Invention Convention or both!

The SCIENCE FAIR is your chance to plan and conduct a simple investigation or experiment and show what you discover. The INVENTION CONVENTION is your chance to show your idea for a new way to solve a problem or make a job easier to do. Students who enter an invention will be competing to represent Southeast at the Connecticut Invention Convention. Can't think of an idea? Ask a friend, a relative (older brothers and sisters can be very helpful here), or a teacher for their ideas. Check the library or at school for books about science experiments and inventions. Maybe you will want to research a question you've always wondered about or invent a solution to a problem you've noticed. We want you to think of something simple and interesting! The idea is for you and your family or friends to have fun with science.

You'll need the Science Fair packet and/or Invention Convention packet to begin. Go to our website and click on the link under Southeast News & Announcements. If you can't access or download them please let us know so we can copy one for you. Whether you need a printed copy of the packets or not, participants should sign up on our website so we can plan for the appropriate number of students. Thank you.

CAS Elementary Student Leadership Training Conference

On Friday, January 9, 2015, six Southeast School fourth grade students attended the Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Student Leadership Training Conference at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield. Abdullah Alswat, Athavan Balakumar, Ashlyn Higham, Allesandra Leonard, Virginia Martin, Owen Sgro represented Southeast School along with hundreds of other fourth through sixth grade student leaders from around Connecticut.

After a rather snowy ride, the students attended fast paced, thought-provoking classes on Communication, Decision Making, and Problem-Solving. Each class was led by taught by teacher leaders and college students from around the state. Señora Hutton and Mrs. Irvine were pleased to lead three communication sessions. Highlights of the day for the students included: meeting student leaders from many different towns and making new friends; hands-on workshops where they learned about leadership; and the fantastic closing assembly. For the closing assembly, each student had an instrument and played their own beat but somehow we all made great music together. That showed us that everyone can have their own ideas but we can work together to make a better community! The students are very excited to use their new ideas and put their leadership skills to work at Southeast.



Your Child's Lunch Account

We have recently added a feature to the Food Services webpage that allows parents to opt into reminders for their child's lunch account. This is a more proactive way of informing parents where their student's balance is rather than sending a note home after the student goes into the negative. Parents can either opt into weekly reminders regardless of the balance or reminders only when the account falls below \$5. We will be advertising it on the April Menus, but if you would like to include the addition in on any newsletters or documents prior to that, the system is currently up and running.



Kariann Sadlon, DTR, SNS
Food Service Director



Congratulations

to our fourth graders, Maya Wells and Athavan Balakumar, for outstanding music achievement at Southeast School!

They were selected to attend the Rockin the Arts festival at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington.

Hello Southeast School!

My name is Brandi Stenglein and I will be working with Sue Irvine and Julie Silverman with the Enrichment program here at Southeast school. I am an elementary education major with a concentration in Mathematics.

For the past five months I have been living in London, England with the UConn Education in London Program. While there, I taught at a school that worked with young people with mental health challenges. It was an incredible experience that significantly transformed my outlook on education. I also have had the experience of living and teaching in Cape Town, South Africa for four months in the spring of 2012. I had a fantastically ram-bunctious group of 33 eight-year-old students that I was fortunate enough to learn a great amount from. Last year I was a student teacher at Windham Center School in a third grade classroom. I had a remarkable group of high-energy students and couldn't have been more grateful for such a wonderful experience with them.



In my free time, I enjoy traveling, volunteering in the local community and spending time with family and friends. I have also spent the past few years working at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in my hometown of Ashford, CT and spend as much free time as I can volunteering there. I love math, leadership, and community/cultural engagement activities! I look forward to meeting all of the staff and students here at this wonderful school! Email: stengleinbd@mansfieldct.org

Help Save the Monarch Butterflies

Southeast Second graders, Claire Hart, Simonne Thibeault, Sylvia Halbrooks, Sarah Bober and Ellie Martin have formed a committee with Señora Hutton to help save the monarch butterflies. The monarch butterfly population is way down from previous years. The girls are working to get the word out that **your help is needed**.

They plan to have a fundraiser at school to earn money for milkweed and flowers. The plan is to make the plants available for a garden at school and to provide plants for Southeast staff and families.



We can all work together as a school and as a community to help improve the environment to meet the needs of the butterflies and to help increase their numbers. Some of the things we can do to help are:

- Plant milkweed
- Plant nectar plants
- Use organic fertilizer
- Educate others about the need for milkweed and flowers.
- Share gardening expertise and time to plant at Southeast
- Share gardening expertise to help teach the best way and best time to plant.
- Bake for the fundraiser.

If you would like to help in any way, please contact Señora Hutton at huttondm@mansfieldct.org. She will work with the committee to pull all of our resources together to benefit the beautiful monarch butterflies.

"If we all work together- individuals, communities, farmers, land managers, and local, state and federal agencies – we can ensure that every American child has a chance to experience amazing monarchs in their backyards."

Collin O'Mara,
President and CEO,
National Wildlife Federation



Planning a Move? Not Returning for 2015-2016 School Year?

We need to know! If your family is planning a move before the end of the school year, please contact our office as soon as possible. If you know that your child will not be attending Southeast School next year, please let us know. We have a formal procedure for withdrawing students and paperwork needs to be filled out.



Sarah Albee Day

Special thanks to our fabulous PTO for funding our author today.

Sarah Albee, author of over 100 books, spent time with us today. We learned about her history, when and why she wanted to be a writer, and how she gets her ideas. The children loved her tips and ideas!

Tues. March 10th- PTO Meeting at 6:30

Please join us! Dr. Kisiel, Mansfield's interim Superintendent, will also be attending. Childcare is provided!

Fri., March 20th- 6:30-Tri-School Basketball Game

A friendly competition amongst the three elementary schools will be held at EO Smith. Look to sign up to play on our Southeast Parent Team! We also need some volunteers to sell tickets and concessions. Access the sign-up page at:

<http://tinyurl.com/Goldentwo>

Families are encouraged to attend this fun-filled evening where we can show our school spirit! Our famous Southeast Drumline (3rd and 4th graders) will be making an appearance at half time as well!

Fri., March 20th- Restaurant Fundraising Night 4-9PM

In conjunction with our basketball tournament; MOES, Mooyah, and Dog Lane Cafe are participating in a fundraising night with the Mansfield Schools! They will give 15% of their proceeds to our PTO's. Grab some dinner before the game, and walk on over!

May 2nd- Dolly and Me Tea 11:30-1:00

Plan to attend the 2nd Annual Tea at Southeast School! Bring your dolls, a friend, and enjoy a sit down "tea" with friends and family. More information to come soon!

DID

**YOU KNOW THAT YOUR
FUNDRAISING DOLLARS
WENT TO SUPPORT
YOUNG AUTHOR'S DAY FOR
ALL SOUTHEAST STUDENTS?**

GAME NIGHT

Thank you, Noreen Halbrooks for organizing a very fun evening for all of our Southeast families!

APPLEBEE'S PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Thank you, Cyndi Wells, for organizing this fun morning! The way that Southeast families displayed teamwork was noted and appreciated! Due to the organization and involvement of our families and staff, we raised at least \$700 for our school's programs!

**Southeast Family
Involvement**

PTO meeting minutes and Treasurer Reports are posted to the Southeast School Web Site. Even if you cannot make a meeting, please volunteer to help a fellow parent or staff member with coordinating an event! There are many things that can be done from home. E-mail us at any time!

As we look forward to the 2015-16 year, we are aware of the need for PTO officers and event coordinators. Please consider this need and how you might be able to serve our Southeast teachers and families. E-mail us at souteastschool.pto@gmail.com and we would be happy to answer any questions about these opportunities.

Thank you to all of those who have completed and turned in the PTO meeting survey. We appreciate your feedback and are still accepting the surveys!